

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00196 121700Z

60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 INT-08 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14

TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /139 W  
----- 004418

R 121418Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3844

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ELAB LT

SUBJ: REPATRIATION OF MINERS

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY LOCAL SOURCE THAT 5,000 (SUBSEQUENT SABC REPORT PUT NUMBER AT 3,500) BASOTHO MINERS ENROUTE MASERU BY TRAIN FROM ANGLO-AMERICAN-OWNED WELKOM GOLD MINE IN WAKE OF RECENT FIGHTS BETWEEN BASOTHO AND XHOSA MINERS. SOURCE SAID BASOTHO HAD ACQUIRED FEISTY REPUTATION AMONG MINE MANAGERS AND IN THIS CASE, MINE OWNER HARRY OPPENHEIMER HAD DECIDED REPATRIATE BASOTHO FROM WELKOM MINE RATHER THAN RISK FURTHER INCIDENT. HE SAID TO FAVOR GIVING SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK MINERS BENEFIT OF DOUBT. (FYI. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE NINE MINERS KILLED AND MORE THAN 100 INJURED IN FIGHTS LAST WEEKEND AT WELKOM MINE. END FYI.)

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PAGE 02 MASERU 00196 121700Z

2. PRIME MINISTER CHIEF JONATHAN HAS BEEN CLAIMING THAT SAG  
THREATENING TO REPATRIATE BASOTHO WORKERS. IF REPORT CORRECT,  
LESOTHO WILL PROBABLY PERCEIVE THAT NEW LOW IN ITS RELATIONS  
WITH SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN REACHED. OPPENHEIMER, FAIRLY WELL  
REGARDED HERE, WILL BE SEEN TO HAVE BOWED TO PRESSURES FROM  
PRETORIA, ALTHOUGH WITH CARLETONVILLE MEMORY STILL FRESH  
PROBABLY NO PRESSURE NEEDED FOR OPPENHEIMER TO TAKE DECISIVE  
STEPS TO END MINE TROUBLE. AN ESTIMATED 80,000 BASOTHO MINERS  
ARE STILL ON THE JOB IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE RETURNING 5,000  
WILL NOT ALL FIT SMOOTHLY INTO THE LESOTHO ECONOMY AND THEIR  
MINE WAGES WILL BE MISSED.  
HAUGHT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, MINING, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, WAGES, PRESS RELEASES, DEATHS, CASUALTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**From:** MASERU  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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